

by the standard of work they set before themselves and maintained, or by the unwearying steadiness of their cheerful faith in the views they held Even those whom they exasperated had to pay a tribute of admiration when they stopped to reflect They annoyed some of their acquaintances annoyed them the more that good grounds for that feeling could rarely be given—which only made it worse To drink they may, who knows, have driven one or two. to work they had inspired far more

Not the smallest part of their contribution has been the visual fact of two Socialists for whom Socialism is not a vague, occasional aspiration towards a hazy, distant ideal, but a robustly practical rule of present existence, and of happy existence Their action helped—the simplicity, nay austerity of their personal lives and habits For years, Miss Webb on best occasions wore the same crimson velvet dress—and very becoming it was In it, with her tall slender darkness, her vivid flashing eyes, and her agitated dark hair, in which two wings of grey were beginning to appear, she could look very handsome, although she had an inveterate habit of tying herself into knots as she sat on her favourite low stool Sidney was, invariably, in neat blue serge They eschewed evening dress, as they did the sort of parties at which it was obligatory Their complete abstention from large Society had its effect, as had then plainly genuine and genuinely humorous contempt for, and bright exposure of, the follies and foibles of

social and
other climbers For some they talked too much
he softly,
she shrilly but their talk helped, notably in
their constant
habit of presenting the Socialist point of view
as the one
that really had got to be taken by any rational,
informed
intelligence This enraged some people,
enraged them the
more that they saw them making Socialism
respectable—
intellectually and also economically and morally
respectable
Not by toning it down, but by treating it as
obvious, once